COUNTRY

Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT

Reactions to Duchacek's Statements Concerning Czechoslowak Claims to

Polish-held Areas

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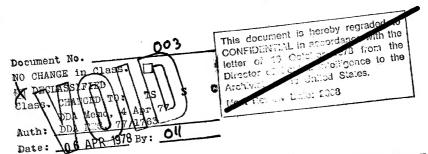
SUPPLEMENT

**ORIGIN** 

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- 1. During the budget debates in the Constitutional Assembly between 11 and 13 December 1946, considerable time was given to discussions of Czechoslovakia's foreign policy, and particularly to the angles of the policy that concern Germany and Czechoslovak claims to the Polish-held areas around Clats and Ratibor. A strong speech was made by Dr. Ivo Duchácek, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Coundttee, who stressed the dangers Czechoslovakia can face from an economically reconstructed Germany. Concerning Poland, he underscored the fact that territorial demends cannot be made against that country if the present western border of New Poland is accepted as definitive. He added, however, that in border discussions with Poland, Czechoslovakia can, "in the interests of Slavic cooperation, expect full cooperation from the USSR."
- In the Ministry for Fereign Affairs, the immediate reaction to the speech was that Duchacek is toying dangerously with the Soviets concerning the Glats problem. Accordingly, the Minister for Information promptly ordered the Czechoslovak press to delete the above-quoted remark from their publication of Duchacek's speech. However, the People's Party organs went ahead and printed the text of the speech in full and are now awaiting further reactions.



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